

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1 and 5-8 and 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 first paragraph.

Also, claims 1, 5-8 and 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In the rejection of the claims, the Examiner indicated that in claim 1 it is further required that the conduit 20 is closed at its free end 38, while simultaneously it is required that the connection piece is connected to an onward-leading water line with the water conduit 20 with its free end.

Claim 1 defines a windshield wiper with wiper blades having great lengths, for which more than one spray nozzle is required. Such a construction is shown for example in Figure 12. The nozzle body 86 has a throughgoing water conduit 20, wherein the water conduits 20 of the nozzle bodies 86 are connected with one another through the connecting water lines 122. The water conduit 20 of the last nozzle body 86 which is located the

last in the direction of flow has at its free end 38, or on its end 38, which faces away from the water line 18 (which leads from the pump 118 to the water conduits 20), a closure cup 110, while the water conduits 20 of the remaining nozzle bodies 86 at their corresponding ends 38 have a connection piece 100. Thereby an arbitrarily long chain of the spray nozzles 10 can be formed, depending on the length of the wiper blade.

The connecting piece 100 and the closure cap 110 in Figure 2 are individual components which are clamped in the nozzle body 86 at the end of the corresponding water conduit 20. Figure 7 shows on an enlarged scale a spray nozzle as in Figure 12 as an individual element with a connection piece 100, while Figure 8 shows a similar spray nozzle at the end of the chain as an individual element, in which the end of the water conduit is closed by a closure cap 114 on connection piece. A similar arrangement with a similarly formed connection piece 112, which however is open and is connected through a water line 122 with a further spray nozzle is shown in Figure 11.

While in accordance with the prior art, in particular disclosed in the British patent document GB 2 223 424 A only one spray nozzle is disclosed whose water passage is closed at the end, the windshield wiper in

accordance with the present invention as defined in claim 1 has several spray nozzles from which the water passage of the last spray nozzle in the flow direction is also closed, while the water passage of the remaining spray nozzles at the end of the water passage which faces away from the water line has a connection piece. As explained herein above, this is provided in the embodiment of Figure 12. This has also a support in the original specification, on page 15, starting from line 15 and page 5 starting from line 15.

The Examiner further indicated that there is no embodiment that has both a stub on the nozzle body that engages an opening in the housing and an onward-leading water line.

Figure 1 shows a nozzle body 12 with a stub 30, which is introduced into an opening 34 of the housing 16. The water conduit 20 is closed at the end 38. A similar embodiment is shown in Figure 11. The part which is comparable with the housing is identified as a nozzle body 6, while the part comparable with a nozzle body 12 has a nozzle opening 26 and a spray conduit 24, which was however not identified as a nozzle body. It is therefore suggested to identify the nozzle body 6 as a part of the housing 82 and to use reference numeral 12 for the nozzle body and 30 for the stub as

shown in an additional drawing 4/4, in which Figure 11 is provided in correspondence with Figure 1.

In connection with the Examiner's further grounds for the rejection of claim 1, applicant has amended claim 1 to remove the features which correspond to the original claim 3, which are not shown in the embodiment of Figures 7 and 12.

Instead, a new dependent claim 23 has been added which contains these features.

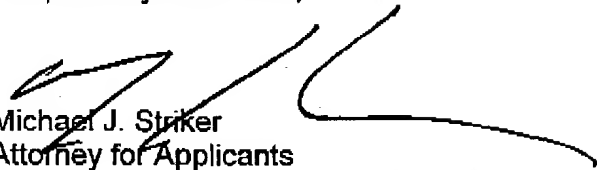
In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is believed that the Examiner's grounds for the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph and second paragraph should be considered as no longer tenable and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in

formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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